

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STOCKH 02608 060917Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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P 060822Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4186

S E C R E T STOCKHOLM 2608

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGSC PEPR, MASS, SW, IN, US  
SUBJ: NEW SWEDISH ASSESSMENT OF VIGGEN SALE TO INDIA

1. SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US LAST NIGHT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SODER HAD RETURNED FROM VISIT TO DELHI WITH A CONSIDERABLY MORE OPTIMISTIC APPRECIATION OF VIGGEN CHANCES THAN BEFORE, PROVIDED US APPROVAL COULD BE OBTAINED. CABINET WILL REPORTEDLY MEET TODAY TO CONSIDER SENDING HIGH LEVEL GOS OFFICIAL TO WASHINGTON TO PRESS SWEDISH CAUSE.

2. SOURCE STATED THAT MRS. SODER'S TRIP (SHE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL DIVISION CHIEF KNUT THYBERG) WAS UNDERTAKEN LARGELY AS "WINDOW-DRESSING" TO DEMONSTRATE TO SWEDISH INDUSTRY THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE HAD BEEN DONE BY MFA THAT COULD BE DONE. MFA ITSELF HAD COME TO BELIEVE THAT VIGGEN WAS IN FACT A POOR THIRD TO JAGUAR AND MIRAGE AND THAT SWEDISH INDUSTRY HAD BEEN LED ASTRAY AS TO ITS PROSPECTS. TOP INDIAN LEADERS, HOWEVER, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ASSURED SWEDES THAT VIGGEN WAS VERY MUCH IN RUNNING PROVIDED ONLY THAT US LICENSING WOULD NOT BE A MAJOR PROBLEM. DECISION WOULD BE MADE IN AUGUST ACCORDING TO SENIOR INDIAN OFFICIALS. SWEDISH MFA VIEW THAT INDIANS HAD BEEN STRINGING THEM ALONG TO IMPROVE TERMS FROM BRITISH AND FRENCH COMPETITION WAS SHAKEN BY STRONG INDIAN ASSURANCES THAT VIGGEN WAS INDEED  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STOCKH 02608 060917Z

A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY.

3. THERE IS UNDOUBTEDLY STILL SOME SKEPTICISM IN MFA AND GOS GENERALLY AS TO VIGGEN'S CHANCES AND THIS WAS SUPPORTED BY OUR FRANK APPRAISAL TO SOURCE THAT VIGGEN IS NOT FRONT RUNNER TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. CONCEIVABLE THIS SKEPTICISM COULD RESURFACE AND LEAD TO A CABINET DECISION NOT TO PRESS THE ISSUE

IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, ODDS NOW SEEM STRONG THAT GOS WILL  
DECIDE TO TEST THE WATERS AT VERY HIGH LEVEL WITH A SPECIAL  
ENVOY. IT IS CLEAR, IN ANY CASE, THAT VIGGEN SALE TO INDIA  
IS REGARDED AS MAJOR ISSUE AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF SWEDISH  
GOVERNMENT.  
KENNEDY-MINOTT

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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